Chapter 14 Alcohol

HMM.
HERE ARE THE SHARDS OF SIR KOUNEN'S JUG...
...AND THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTI-GATION.
WILL THAT BE ALL?
YES. THANK YOU.
I HAD A FEEL-ING AS MUCH.
GRITTY
WHICH MEANS THAT...
THAT WHITE POW-DER...
IS IT REALLY A GOOD IDEA TO LICK IT?!
IT'S ONLY SALT.
NO HARM WILL COME FROM A LICK OR TWO.
!!!
LICK

YOU SAID SIR KOUNEN SUDDENLY WENT FROM LIKING SAVORY FLAVORS TO PREFERRING SWEET ONES...
...AND FROM THEN ON, HE WOULD ONLY EAT AND DRINK SWEET THINGS.
HOW-EVER ...
SALT?
YES.
...IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SIR KOUNEN'S LIQUOR JUG CONTAINED SALT.
SO MUCH, IN FACT, THAT SALT CRYSTALS REMAIN EVEN NOW, AFTER THE JUG HAS COMPLETELY DRIED OUT.
SALT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE HUMAN BODY...
...BUT, LIKE ALCOHOL, IT BECOMES POISONOUS IF YOU INGEST TOO MUCH.

BUT...
...SURELY HE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TASTE IT AND KNOW SOMETHING WAS OFF?
...EVEN SO...
...IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF THIS WERE THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.
...AND THE SHEER QUANTITY OF SALT MIXED INTO THE JUG...
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT HOW MUCH HE DRANK...
I'M AFRAID NOT.
.....BUT THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
...I THINK HE LOST THE ABILITY TO TASTE SALTY FLAVORS.
FROM WHAT I'VE READ HERE...
THIS IS A RECORD OF SIR KOUNEN'S DAILY HABITS.

HE MUST HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED WITH AN ILLNESS THAT AFFECTED HIS SENSE OF TASTE.
ONE POSSIBLE CAUSE OF THIS IS STRESS ON THE MIND AND BODY.
AS SERIOUS AS HE WAS, HE MAY HAVE BEEN PRONE TO SUPPRESSING HIS EMOTIONS ...
...AND THEN THAT TURNED INTO DISEASE.
I CAN TELL FROM EVEN THIS BRIEF REPORT ON HIM THAT SIR KOUNEN WAS A TALENTED MINISTER...
...AND HAD AN AUSTERE PERSONALITY.
AFTER LOSING HIS WIFE AND CHILD TO ILLNESS, HE THREW HIMSELF INTO HIS WORK...
...LIQUOR AND SWEETS, HIS ONLY PLEASURES.
SO THEN ...
...WHO ADDED THE SALT INTO SIR KOUNEN'S JUG?
IT'S NOT MY JOB TO FIND OUT.

THERE WAS SALT IN THE LIQUOR YOU GAVE ME TO DRINK YESTERDAY.
I BELIEVE THAT SOME-ONE WHO DISLIKED SWEET DRINKS...
...ADDED THE SALT FROM THE APPETIZER DISH INTO THE JUG.
BUT I WILL SAY THIS.
PERHAPS THEY WERE INCREDIBLY DRUNK OR JUST PLAIN LAZY...
...TO ADD SALT DIRECTLY INTO THE JUG...
...INSTEAD OF ADDING THE SALT TO THE RIM OF THEIR GLASS, AS IS NORMAL.
PERHAPS SOMEONE DECIDED TO PLAY A LITTLE PRANK...
...ON THE PERSON THEY DIS-LIKED BY ADDING SALT INTO HIS DRINKING JUG.
BUT NOT EVERY-ONE LIKES A SERIOUS MAN.

...THEY MIGHT'VE THOUGHT TO KEEP ADDING IN MORE SALT UNTIL HE PICKED UP ON THE HORRIBLE TASTE.
HOW-EVER ...
...WHEN THEIR TARGET CONTINUED TO DRINK WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A SIGN OF DIS-COMFORT...
WHISPER ひそ
RIGHT AWAY.
GAO SHUN.
I'M BEING A COW-ARD, AREN'T I?
HAVING BROKEN DOWN THE INCIDENT IN SUCH DETAIL...
...I'VE ALL BUT TOLD HIM WHO THE CULPRIT IS.
SINCE JINSHI WAS CLOSE TO SIR KOUNEN, HE MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT THE CULPRIT.
181

THANK YOU. SORRY TO HAVE TROUBLED YOU FOR YOUR HELP.
CLATTER ガラ
...DON'T WANT TO BE THE DIRECT CAUSE...
...OF ANOTHER'S PUNISHMENT.
STILL, I...
A TASSEL WITH AN OBSIDIAN GEM.
I HADN'T NOTICED SINCE HIS UNIFORM IS BLACK.
WAS SIR KOUNEN REALLY SO GREAT A MAN?
IS HE IN MOURN-ING?

HEH.
HE TOOK CARE OF ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
HE WAS.
GUESS HE IS HUMAN, AFTER ALL.
HE LOOKS LIKE A REGULAR PERSON RIGHT NOW.
RUSTLE ゴソ
ゴソ RUSTLE
?
OH YES.
PAT ぽむ
ALMOST FORGOT.

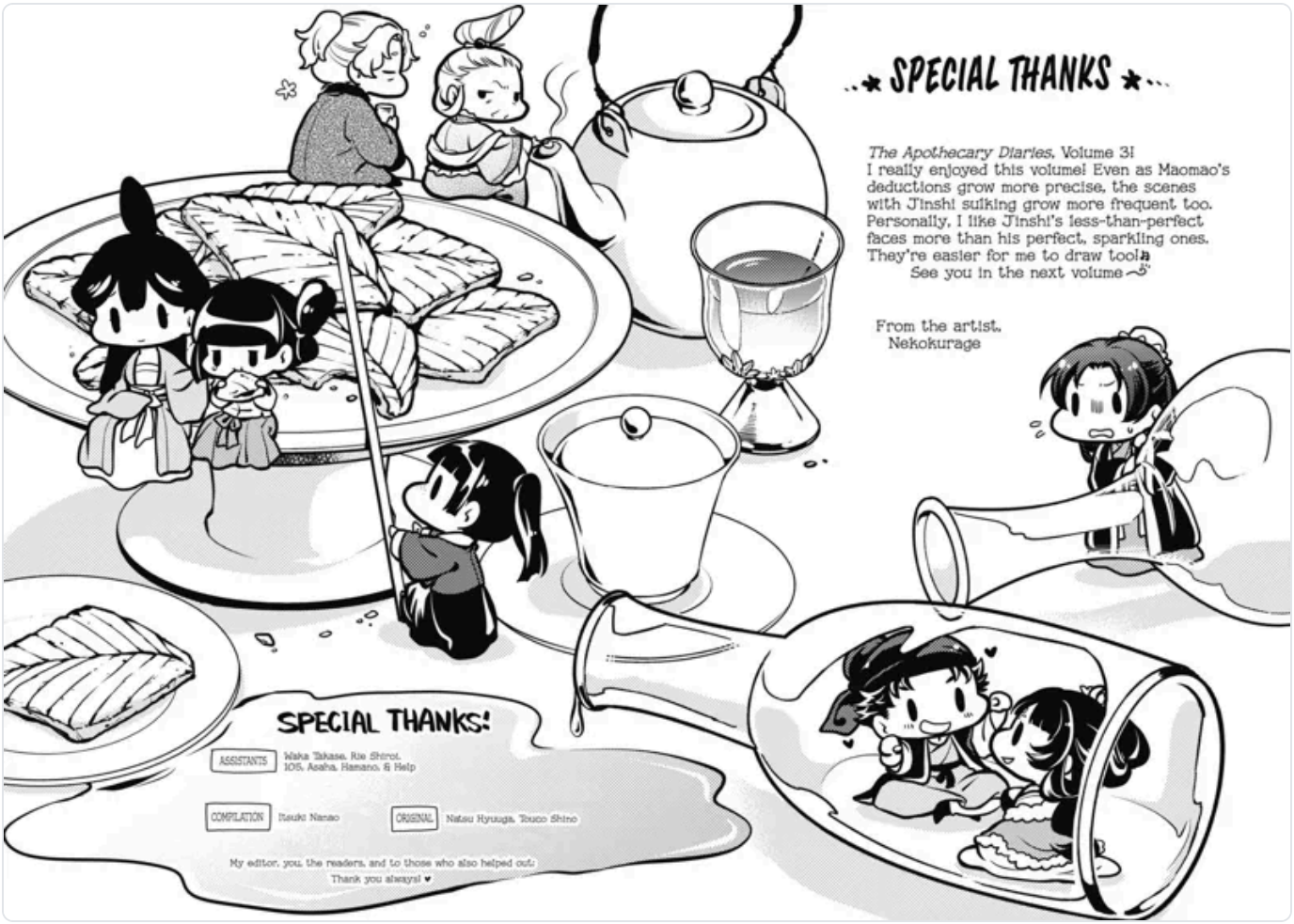
183

YES. BUT YOU'LL FIND THE CONTENTS ARE A BIT DIFFERENT FROM YESTERDAY.
A GOURD, I SEE.
TOK
!
OOOOOH!
IT'S ALCOHOL!
TAK
A TOKEN OF MY THANKS.
BOOOW
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
BE DISCREET ABOUT IMBIBING, WON'T YOU?
I'LL BE CAREFUL.
HOW CONSIDERATE OF HIM!
184

JOLI よ
CAN'T SAY YOU LOOK ALL THAT GRATEFUL TO ME.
DON'T I?
NEVER MIND, HE'S BACK TO NORMAL.
キラ SPARKLE
キラ SPARKLE
HAVEN'T YOU GOT A JOB YOU SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO?
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET TO IT BEFORE IT PILES UP INTO A MOUN-TAIN.
I'M ON TOP OF MY WORK, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ギク FLINCH
HE'S TOTALLY SKIPPING OUT ON WORK RIGHT NOW, ISN'T HE?

AH YES!
THAT REMINDS ME! I READ AN INTER-ESTING LAW PROPOSAL RECENTLY.
IT SPOKE OF PROTECTING OUR YOUTH FROM BECOMING ADDICTED TO ALCOHOL...
...BY SUGGESTING WE PASS A LAW THAT FORBIDS DRINKING UNTIL THE AGE OF 20.
ISN'T THAT A GOOD IDEA?
!
.....
SIR JINSHI, MY GOOD MAN.
TUG
HM?

PLEASE, OH PLEASE, DON'T PASS THAT LAW!
HEH!
WE SHALL SEE!
I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO STOP IT!
THE APOTHECARY DIARIES 3 • End


SPECIAL THANKS
The Apothecary Diaries, Volume 3!
I really enjoyed this volume! Even as Maomao's deductions grow more precise, the scenes with Jinshi sulking grow more frequent too. Personally, I like Jinshi's less-than-perfect faces more than his perfect, sparkling ones. They're easier for me to draw too!♪
See you in the next volume~♪
From the artist,
Nekokurage
SPECIAL THANKS!
ASSISTANTS
Waka Takase, Rie Shirot, 105, Asaha, Hamano, & Help
COMPILATION
Itsuki Nanao
ORIGINAL
Natsu Hyuuga, Touco Shino
My editor, you, the readers, and to those who also helped out:
Thank you always! ♥

"ACCIDENTALLY"

BONUS MANGA
Art: Itsuki Nanao

AND I LIKE SPENDING TIME WITH YOU TOO!
DO YOU ...
...NOT LIKE THAT I'M SO CHATTY?
WELL ...
...IT'S OKAY ONCE IN A WHILE.
HA HA HA!
JUST ONCE IN A WHILE, HUH?
SPECIAL THANKS
Natsu Hyuuga
Touco Shino
Nekokurage
The editor
And you, the readers
See you in Volume 4!
Itsuki Nanao
GASP
I WAS NOT SMIL-ING.
OH? WAS THAT A SMILE I SAW JUST NOW?

PAGE 160 PART 2

Story by Itsuki Nanao Art by Nekokurage

Story by Itsuki Nanao *Art by* Nekokurage